

Argentine News

AND

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1850.

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BUENOS AYRES.

As the first of January approaches, public anxiety as to the forthcoming Message becomes more and more intense, increasing, like the power of attraction, in its inverse ratio to the distance. No announced news of the Great Unknown, ever produced a more absorbing interest. Fruitless inquiries as to its probable contents, are made at every step, and important speculations are kept at bay, till cautious time reveal the "Oracle of Destiny."

In these circumstances we gladly avail ourselves of a "peep behind the curtain," graciously afforded by a report of the Secretary—Accountant of the Public Funds to the Minister of Finance, detailing the situation and prospects of that important institution; that will doubtless occupy a prominent place in the annually-anticipated Message. The Spanish reader will find it recorded at length in the *Gaceta Mercantil* of the 17th instant; and for the benefit of those who feel more at home in the mother tongue, we subjoin a synopsis of its leading features.

The origin of this debt reaches farther back than 1810. The first two millions, of four per cent. stock, were recognised for the liquidation of claims prior to the 25th May of that memorable year; and, consequently, contracted during the colonial regime. The successive emissions, to meet special emergencies, amounted in all to \$3,693,334 dollars, bearing an annual interest of four per cent., that is to say, a direct anticipation on the available resources of the Republic, or more correctly speaking, of the Province of Buenos Ayres, to the tune of 3,221,600 dollars annually.

Those acquainted with the history of such financial expedients in Europe, may well shudder at the recollection of the imminent danger we have escaped. Fortunately in this case the Sinking or Redemption Fund has been managed with religious punctuality; and the Statement referred to shows, that on the 31st instant, the whole unredempted Stock will amount only to \$2,441,714 dollars, with an accumulated Sinking Fund of 8,227,025 dollars; and supposing the actual system carried out till the end of February 1852, that is for fourteen months more, the debt will have entirely disappeared; leaving a balance of 391,334 dollars, in the coffers of the Sinking Fund.

It is impossible to contemplate these results, pregnant as they are with consolation and blessing, without a feeling of honest, complacency, of irrepressible exultation. They furnish the best proof that can be desired of the financial capabilities of Buenos Ayres; the best voucher that can be appended to the able and upright management of H. E. the Governor, whose name and fame are the glory and boast of the Argentine Republic, and the sheet anchor of our future hope.

BOLIVIA.—The late dastardly attempt on the life of President Belzu, has given occasion to energetic measures on the part of the public authorities. "There can be no doubt that it was a complot, with an ulterior political tendency; and various parties have virtually denounced their complicity by abjuring. Strongest orders were issued for the capture and surrender of these parties. Two classified lists are published, the 1st containing 13 names, and the 2nd, 9; and rewards of \$500 and \$1000 respectively, are offered for each individual apprehended.

Meanwhile Colonel Manuel Leguina, who accompanied President Belzu at the time the murder was attempted, has been tried by a court martial, and found guilty and sentenced to the set; having invited and enticed the President to accompany him on that occasion, when such deadly purposes were meditated against his life. No doubt some enterprisers as to the culpability of Leguina, who has expiated his crime by suffering the extreme penalty of the law.

Montevideo.—The Montevideo murderer) have met with a rather severe check, by the death of a notorious forerunner and assassin, Francisco Pellicano Lemus; and the capture of his worthy associates, Manuel Garcia, and the three Melinas, Juan, Francisco and Fructosio. These events took place on the morning of the 24th November; and the preceding circumstances involve very aggravated charges against the nominal Government of Montevideo.

It appears that President Oribe and through Admiral Le Prodront remonstrated strongly with the Montevideo authorities. Deaf to the calls of duty and honor, and with a reckless disregard of consequence, the enterprise was allowed to proceed to its fatal and disgraceful termination. It is strange that with all their pretensions to civilization, they cannot apprehend the obligations of a public administrator; even though negotiated and guaranteed by the French Republic.

DIARIO DE AYRES.—In this able and spirited Journal, of the 18th instant, we find the following:

"The British Packet of the 7th September and, that during the killing season (*la cacería de las vacas*) two million head of cattle might be disposed of. We consider this amount a very vigorous effort, and from data we have succeeded in obtaining from well informed persons, it results that not more than 400,000 head could be dispatched during the season."

The following is evidently the paragraph referred to:

"Should this severe scourge be withdrawn, we have no doubt that our market will speedily recover its usually healthy tone. Our resources are nearly paralyzed, not exhausted, and for months of propitious weather, would bring perhaps two million of cattle to the slaughter-house. In such case, but times and not times, would be raised that have been sold," and no one here would have time either to talk or think about them; and the commercial and shipping interests of the world may safely reckon on a single harvest of profit and enjoyment."

A curious glance at the text and the comment may convince any one, that our respected colleague has a very confused apprehension of the genuine meaning of the original. "The few they are required for, bringing the cattle into condition for commencing regular Saladero operations; and the period applied for disposing of the two millions, is evidently that of the ensuing two months; and by no means confined to the mere *Saladeros*. In short our meaning is, that during the ensuing year there may be two million heads, and other relative produce, for exportation, which we still hold to be much nearer the mark than the 400,000 of our contented party."

This much we consider due in self-education, and to show the danger of *infante criticism* applied to great questions; to which we have only to add, that in estimating the prospective capabilities of this country under the present march and administration, an error in excess is more natural and venial than an error in defect.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

(Continued from our last.)

Buenos Ayres, November 20th, 1850. The Minister for Foreign Affairs.

To H. E. the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Confederation, near the Government of H. E. M. E.

The undersigned has had the honor to bring to the attention of H. E. the Governor, General Don Juan Manuel de Rosas, the note of Y. E. No. 492, dated 14th of May last, in form as to the answer of H. E. Vicent Palmerston, to the representation made to the British Government, under date 20th of April, and of which an account has been given in Note No. 486, concerning the libel of the *Dublin Review*.

H. E. the Governor being informed of Y. E. aforesaid communication, and of the original note, whereby H. E. Vicent Palmerston replied to the demand made by the Legation, in consequence of the libel published in the 1st number of the *Confederation*, and against the honor of His Supreme Chief, has ordered the undersigned to communicate to Y. E. the following commands—

H. E. the Governor duly esteems the declaration which the Honorable Vicent Palmerston made to Y. E. in the Government of Her Majesty had read with deep regret the passages quoted by Y. E. in the *Dublin Review* of April 1849, which had not reflected the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, until the receipt of your note of the 20th; and that the *Dublin Review* is a periodical work conducted entirely on private speculation.

This significant manifestation involves a solemn rejection of the calumnious assertions contained in said publication, and testifies to the high rectitude wherewith H. M. G. Government reports this insult, gratuitously offered to the dignity of the Argentine people, their Government, and their Supreme Chief. The *Confederation* did expect that the enlightened British Cabinet would feel disgust at the calumnious falsehoods of a libel, calculated to denigrate the glory of a Nation, jealous of her good name, and the fame of a Government with which England cultivates relations of cordial fraternity. H. E. General Rosas foresees those honorable feelings in the Government of Great Britain, and facts have justified his anticipations.

H. E. the Governor recognises without difficulty the principles invoked in the note of H. E. the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Her Majesty, as favoring the use of the press in Great Britain. H. E. is aware, that they permit individuals the due publication of their thoughts, and he fully comprehends that that right can only be restricted in cases of political emigration, of similar ones, in which the emigrant has no other right to the liberties of the country which affords him an asylum, the exercise can only be granted to him of such as shall not endanger the stability or inviolability of public tranquility, or infringe the duties of neutrality. H. E. recognises that the Director of the Review being not an Argentine but a British subject, is beyond the scope of these restrictions, and the British liberties consistently protect him in their fullest extent. But this circumstance does not hinder the Republic from protesting against the offences which have been committed against it nor aid it despite of it the right of soliciting redress by which the Government of Her Majesty has so nobly attended to the requirements of Argentine honor.

The statement in the Review could not in themselves alone cause an impression on the mind of the Supreme Chief of the *Confederation*. Indeed expressions of that nature H. E. is aware, cannot require questions in the name of a Government, nor tarnish the laws of a country which has given proofs of national vigor. But H. E. is aware, that a production so hostile and criminal should find place in a publication distinguished for its moral tendencies, and deplores that the honorable people of the Kingdom of England, surprised by the hypocrisy of a perverse Jesuit, should have been negligent to such a degree, as to have permitted that those who are in a periodical, the compilation of which he directs, and which thus appeared

as if favored by a ecologically official sanction. It was under the sway of these impressions that the Argentine Government ordered Y. E. in view of the peculiarity of the case, to solicit from the Government of H. M. a declaration, that so honorable a publication could never assume any other character than that of a private production, and to adopt the measures which the Laws of Nations provide against such offences.

It is in conformity with the representation which Y. E. made, in fulfillment of the previous orders, that H. E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs manifested "how deep regret with which the Government of H. M. had read the passages quoted by Y. E. in the *Dublin Review*" and that it is a periodical work conducted entirely as a private speculation by private individuals, and not in any degree under the authority of H. M. Government. These frank and noble declarations, and that of H. M. Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the effect that he had no knowledge of said libel, until Y. E. called his attention thereto, divests the *Review* of the specialty which was ascribed to it, considering it as edited by a public functionary of the British Government, and leaves it calumnious reduced to the mere of private criminal suggestions, as this Government solicited should be established, renders unnecessary the serious and high arguments against the petulance of a production which, in our view, and had faith, excites the admiration of all right-minded observers, and is an explicit and distinct confession, with which Her Majesty's Cabinet has seen the beforementioned doctrine, and which, in our view, being thus consigned to those declarations, all that tranquillize the spirit of the Argentine Government, and leaves the demand which Y. E. makes in consequence of the libel published in the Argentine Republic and its Chief Magistrate, satisfied in the principal part.

This significant manifestation involves a solemn rejection of the calumnious assertions contained in said publication, and testifies to the high rectitude wherewith H. M. G. Government reports this insult, gratuitously offered to the dignity of the Argentine people, their Government, and their Supreme Chief. The *Confederation* did expect that the enlightened British Cabinet would feel disgust at the calumnious falsehoods of a libel, calculated to denigrate the glory of a Nation, jealous of her good name, and the fame of a Government with which England cultivates relations of cordial fraternity. H. E. General Rosas foresees those honorable feelings in the Government of Great Britain, and facts have justified his anticipations.

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